

Families First. A better future.

Families First is changing in July 2007.

Changes for 2007 include:

Time Limits – You will have a maximum of 60 months on the program.

Activities – Your work requirements may change. Your caseworker or client representative will tell you what the new requirements are and how to meet them.

Exemptions – You will be required to work or go to school for at least 30 hours each week **UNLESS:**

- *You are a single parent with a child younger than four months old.*
- *You are 65 or older.*
- *You are disabled.*
- *You are unable to work for a short time because of illness or injury.*
- *You care for a disabled relative who lives with you and is not in school full time.*

Medicaid & Food Stamps – You can also apply for Food Stamps and Medicaid when you apply for Families First.



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Helping families is our job.



Families First.

How it works for you.

Families First offers help when times are tough. You can turn to us for support in finding a job and gaining your independence.



Making a pledge.

Terms of Families First.

Families First focuses on work and personal responsibility. These commitments are outlined in the Personal Responsibility Plan you must follow to get help from Families First. The PRP is an outline of your path to independence...a path that may include work, school, and other responsibilities.

The PRP is also a contract. As part of this contract, you must agree to work or go to school for at least 30 hours each week. You must also agree to:

- *Take your children for regular health checks and immunizations.*
- *Make your children go to school.*
- *Cooperate with the Child Support office.*

Not everyone who gets help from Families First will be required to work. Even if you can't work because you are disabled, care for a disabled relative or face some other challenge, Families First can still help you. Talk to your caseworker to see if these rules apply to you.

Who is eligible?

Qualifying for Families First.

To qualify for Families First, a child in your household must be deprived of the support of one or both parents. Your household earnings also cannot exceed income and resource limits for the program. You must be a U.S. citizen (or a qualifying legal resident) and live in Tennessee. Your caseworker may ask to see the records listed below to make sure you are eligible for Families First:

- *Birth certificates*
- *Utility bills*
- *Social Security cards*
- *Rent receipts*
- *Check stubs*
- *Tax returns*
- *Bank statements*
- *Insurance policies*



Getting with the program.

Applying for Families First.

For more information or to apply for Families First, please call the Tennessee Department of Human Services' Family Assistance Service Center toll-free at 1-866-311-4287. You may also visit

www.state.tn.us/humanserv/adfam/afs_tanf.htm.

After you've applied, a Families First caseworker will call you to talk about your application and your family's needs. The application process usually takes about 45 days. Forms for all of our programs are available in both English and Spanish.

More money. More peace of mind. It pays to work.



Working will allow you to bring home more than a check. Parents who work give their families stability and security, and they gain pride and confidence in themselves. Families First can help you take care of your children now and years from now. We will help you gain the skills you need to find a job and succeed on your own. We partner with employers and job centers to help you learn the real-life skills you need to gain full-time employment. As a full-time worker, you will see benefits beyond your regular paycheck. You may qualify for as much as \$4,500 in tax relief through the Earned Income Tax Credit.